

REMARKS


The undersigned and the applicants thank the Examiner for the time and courtesies extended to the undersigned during the telephone interview conducted on August 29, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner acknowledged that he did receive the replacement sheets for Figs. 1 and 2, as described in applicants' response dated January 7, 2005. Regarding the claims, it was agreed that independent claims 1-13, 17 and 18, as amended herein, are allowable over the references currently of record, and in particular over the combination of the prior art described in the background section of applicants' specification and U.S. Patent No. 6,633,923 to *Kukura et al.* (*Kukura*). Each of the independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 17 has been amended to better define the invention and emphasize certain features. Each of dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 18 has been amended to make it consistent with its independent claim.

As for independent claim 14, the Examiner will note that further amendment has been made to this claim. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 now recites that the object program carried by the medium comprises an executable command for carrying out multiple operations that enable information embodied in a first character string containing null data in a middle portion thereof to be passed from a client object to a server object through an interface object running on an operating system. The executable command includes instructions for (i) casting a first character string, declared as a first data type, as a basic string data type, whereby the number of characters including null data in a middle portion of the first character string is countable irrespective of an object-declared type of the first character string, and (ii) processing the effective number of characters in the first character string determined from an analysis of its basic string data type representation.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of the prior art described in the background section of applicants' specification and *Kukura* does not teach this specific processing. Accordingly, applicants' submit that claim 14 is allowable over the art of record, and that dependent claims 15 and 16 are allowable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe any issue remains, he is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issue(s) and advance the application.

Respectfully submitted,


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